

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A data processing system for bulk data transfer comprising:  
2        a source data processing system for distributing data to one or more target data  
3        processing systems;  
4                one or more fan-out nodes for transferring said data between said source  
5        system and each of said one or more target data processing systems and transferring  
6        result information between said one or more target data processing systems and a  
7        preselected set of one or more data processing systems for managing data  
8        distributions.
  
1. The system of Claim 1 wherein each of said one or more fan-out nodes is  
2        operable for caching at least a portion of a data distribution and at least a portion of  
3        said result information.
  
1. The system of Claim 1 wherein a data distribution has a preselected priority,  
2        said preselected priority operable for determining an availability of resources for said  
3        transferring of said data and said transferring of said result information.
  
1. The system of Claim 1 wherein said one or more fan-out nodes comprises a  
2        plurality of fan-out nodes, and wherein said transferring of said data comprises:  
3                receiving said data from said source data processing system by a first fan-out  
4        node;

5            sending said data to a second fan-out node; and  
6            sending said data from said second fan-out node to one or more of said target  
7            data processing systems.

1        5. The system of Claim 1 wherein source data processing system distributes said  
2            data in response to a request from at least one of said target data processing systems.

1        6. The system of Claim 5 wherein a preselected one of said one or more data  
2            processing systems for managing data distributions enqueues said request in a  
3            database.

1        7. The system of Claim 6 wherein said request comprises:  
2            a list of target data processing systems to receive the data;  
3            an identifier of a method by which the target machines will receive and  
4            process the data; and  
5            an identifier of a notification method by which said result information from  
6            each endpoint system will be received by said preselected set of one or more data  
7            processing systems for managing data distributions.

1        8. The system of Claim 6 wherein said request is assigned a preselected  
2            distribution priority and said request is enqueued in accordance with said preselected  
3            distribution priority.

- 1       9. A method for distributing data comprising the steps of:  
2           transferring said data via a first set of one or more fan-out nodes to one or  
3           more endpoint systems; and  
4           transferring results information via a second set of said one or more fan-out  
5           nodes from said one or more endpoint systems to a preselected set of one or more data  
6           processing systems for managing data distributions, said results information  
7           generated in response to said step of transferring said data.
- 1       10. The method of Claim 9 wherein each of said one or more fan-out nodes is  
2           operable for caching at least a portion of a data distribution and at least a portion of  
3           said result information.
- 1       11. The method of Claim 9 wherein said step of transferring said data is  
2           performed in response to a request received from an application on at least one of said  
3           plurality of endpoints.
- 1       12. The method of claim 11 wherein said request includes:  
2           a list of target data processing systems to receive the data;  
3           an identifier of a method by which the target machines will receive and  
4           process the data; and  
5           an identifier of a notification method by which said result information from  
6           each endpoint system will be received by said preselected set of one or more data  
7           processing systems for managing data distributions.

1       13. The method of Claim 10 further comprising the steps of:  
2              assigning one of a preselected set of priority values to each data distribution;  
3              and  
4              determining an availability of a network connection for said step of  
5              transferring said data in response to said one of said preselected set of priority values.

1 *Sb* 14. The method of Claim 11 further comprising the step of determining an  
2 *AS* availability of a network connection for said transferring of results information in  
3 response to said one of said preselected set of priority values.

1       15. The method of Claim 13 further comprising the steps of:  
2              assigning a distribution lifetime value to each data distribution; and  
3              aborting said step of transferring said data in response to an unavailability of  
4              said connection for a time interval corresponding to said distribution lifetime.

1       16. A computer program product embodied in a machine readable storage  
2       medium, the program product including programming for distributing data  
3       comprising instructions for:

4           transferring said data via a first set of one or more fan-out nodes to one or  
5       more endpoint systems; and

6           transferring results information via a second set of said one or more fan-out  
7       nodes from said one or more endpoint systems to a preselected set of one or more data  
8       processing systems for managing data distributions, said results information  
9       generated in response to said step of transferring said data.

1       17. The program product of Claim 16 wherein each of said one or more fan-out  
2       nodes is operable for caching at least a portion of a data distribution and at least a  
3       portion of said result information.

1       18. The program product of Claim 16 wherein said instructions for transferring  
2       said data are performed in response to a request received from an application on at  
3       least one of said plurality of endpoints.

1       19. The program product of claim 18 wherein said request includes:  
2           a list of target data processing systems to receive the data;  
3           an identifier of a method by which the target machines will receive and  
4       process the data; and

5           an identifier of a notification method by which said result information from  
6        each endpoint system will be received by said preselected set of one or more data  
7        processing systems for managing data distributions.

1        20. The program product of Claim 17 further comprising instruction for:  
2           assigning one of a preselected set of priority values to each data distribution;  
3        and  
4           determining an availability of a network connection for said step of  
5        transferring said data in response to said one of said preselected set of priority values.

1 ~~Sub~~ 21. The program product of Claim 18 further comprising instructions for  
2 ~~A6~~ determining an availability of a network connection for said transferring of results  
3        information in response to said one of said preselected set of priority values.

1        22. The program product of Claim 20 further comprising instructions for:  
2           assigning a distribution lifetime value to each data distribution; and  
3           aborting said step of transferring said data in response to an unavailability of  
4        said connection for a time interval corresponding to said distribution lifetime.